

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 107167 TOSEC 040174

FOR CARTER FROM PA

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT MICHAEL T. KAUFMAN BYLINER NEW YORK TIMES MAY 11 HEADED "YOUNG, OPENING AFRICA TRIP, MEETS IN IVORY COAST WITH 33 U.S. ENVOYS."

2. ABIDJAN, IVORY COAST, MAY 10. ANDREW YOUNG BEGAN ANOTHER AFRICAN TOUR TODAY BY JOINING 33 AMERICAN DIPLOMATS FROM AFRICAN POSTS IN A MEETING HERE ON UNITED STATES POLICIES TOWARD AFRICA.

3. ON HIS ARRIVAL THIS MORNING MR. YOUNG, THE OUTSPOKEN UNITED STATES DELEGATE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, SAID THAT HE STILL HOPED TO SPEAK TO STUDENTS AND BUSINESSMEN IN SOUTH AFRICA, WHERE HIS PLANNED VISIT
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MAY 19 HAS BECOME A HEATED POLITICAL ISSUE.

4. MR. YOUNG'S AIDES EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT BY THE TIME HE IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN JOHANNESBURG THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE GRANTED PERMISSION FOR HIM TO COME ON WHAT IS BEING BILLED AS A PRIVATE RATHER THAN AN OFFICIAL VISIT.

5. BUT OTHER POINTS IN MR. YOUNG'S INTINERARY REMAIN IN DOUBT. HIS AIDES EXPLAINED THAT HE MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT GO TO NIGERIA, DEPENDING ON WHETHER THE NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, JOSEPH GARBA, WOULD BE THERE. HE IS DUE TO VISIT MOZAMBIQUE TO ATTEND A UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE WILL PROBABLY VISIT GHANA AND GABON, THE AIDES SAID, AND HE MAY POSSIBLY VISIT THE SUDAN.

6. MR. YOUNG'S STAFF SUGGESTED THAT OTHER COUNTRIES, PERHAPS INCLUDING ANGOLA, MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE ADDED TO THE FLIGHT PLAN.

17. THIS IS MR. YOUNG'S SECOND VISIT TO AFRICA SINCE HE WAS NAMED DELEGATE TO THE UNITED NATIONS. IN FEBRUARY HE VISITED NIGERIA AND TANZANIA, CONFERRING THERE WITH LEADERS OF THE SO-CALLED FRONT-LINE BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES, SO NAMED BECAUSE OF THEIR PROXIMITY TO WHITE-RULED RHODESIA. HE HAD ALSO MADE SEVERAL TRIPS TO AFRICA EARLIER WHILE A MEMBER OF CONGRESS.

8. HERE IN THE IVORY COAST, MR. YOUNG'S ARRIVAL AT THE CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN DIPLOMATS SERVED TO UNDERSCORE THE CANDID DIALOGUE AND CONFUSION THAT HAVE CHARACTERIZED THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S APPROACHES TO AFRICA UNDER THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. ACCORDING TO CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS WITH A NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS, ONE QUESTION THAT HAS BEEN RAISED REPEATEDLY INVOLVES MR. UNCLASSIFIED

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YOUNG'S ROLE IN THE FORMULATION OF POLICY AND HOW THAT TIES IN WITH THE ROLES OF SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE AND VICE PRESIDENT WALTER F. MONDALE.

9. ASKED WHETHER CERTAIN AMBASSADORS HAD COMMUNICATED BEWILDERMENT AT THE DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY, A SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TAKING PART IN THE TALKS HERE REPLIED, "ACTUALLY, AMBASSADORS IN THE FIELD WILL ALWAYS SEEK CLARIFICATION."

10. "EVERY NEW ADMINISTRATION HAS PROBLEMS OF ORGANIZATION," HE WENT ON. "THEY TEND TO CREATE CONFUSION BUT THEY ALSO TEND TO WORK THEMSELVES OUT."

11. BUT IF MANY PARTICIPANTS SHOWED WONDER AT WHAT ONE OF THEM CALLED THE "COMINGLING OF BUREAUCRATIC RESPONSIBILITY," ALL THOSE SPOKEN TO SHOWED DELIGHT AT THE SENSE OF OPENNESS THAT HAS COME WITH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. SEVERAL POINTED OUT THAT THE MEETING BEING

HELD AT THE PERHAPS INAPPROPRIATELY NAMED IVORY TOWER, A
HOTEL, WAS THE FIRST SUCH GATHERING IN SEVEN YEARS.

12. "MAYBE IT IS JUST AN EXERCISE IN EGO," SAID ONE
AMBASSADOR, "BUT DIPLOMATS HAVE EGOS AND IT'S REALLY
NICE TO STAND UP AND SAY WHAT YOU THINK AND HAVE THE
IMPRESSION THAT SOMEONE IS LISTENING." THE AMBASSADOR
IN QUESTION WAS TOO DIPLOMATIC TO SAY SO DIRECTLY, BUT
THE IMPLICATION APPEARED TO BE THAT UNDER HENRY A.
KISSINGER THERE HAD BEEN LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF SUCH CON-
SULTATIONS OR LITTLE THAT COULD BE GAINED BY THEM.

13. ON HIS ARRIVAL HERE, MR. YOUNG ALSO LAID HEAVY
EMPHASIS ON THIS OPENNESS. "IT IS NOT SO MUCH WHAT
I'M GOING TO HEAR FROM THEM," HE SAID IN SPEAKING OF THE
MEETING. "AS WE ATTEMPT TO PUT TOGETHER AN AFRICAN
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POLICY, THE STATE DEPARTMENT FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR
THE POLICY NOT ONLY TO COME FROM WASHINGTON BUT TO COME
FROM AFRICA ITSELF," HE SAID. -

14. PRECISELY WHAT MR. YOUNG IS BEING TOLD IS NOT BEING
REPORTED TO THE PRESS. WILLIAM E. SCHAUFLE JR., THE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, HAS
MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE PROCEEDINGS WERE ALL CONFIDENTIAL.

15. HOWEVER, ON THE BASIS OF CONVERSATIONS WITH DIPLO-
MATS HERE, IT APPEARS THAT AT LEAST ONE MAJOR DIVERGENCE
OF OPINION IS DEVELOPING. THIS CONCERNS THE ISSUE OF
THE UNITED STATES REACTION TO SOVIET INITIATIVES IN
AFRICA.

16. ONE GROUP IS ARGUING IN BROAD OUTLINE THAT WASHING-
TON HAS A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO THE MODERATE AND
FRIENDLY AFRICAN COUNTRIES THAT HAVE HAD CLOSE RELATIONS
WITH THE UNITED STATES AND LOOK TO IT FOR LEADERSHIP AND
SUPPORT.

18. IT IS ARGUED THAT THESE COUNTRIES HAVE PRIVATELY
EXPRESSED THEIR DISMAY AT SUCH PRONOUNCEMENTS AS MR.
YOUNG'S ASSERTION THAT THE CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA
REPRESENTED "A STABILIZING FORCE." THE DIPLOMATS IN
THIS GROUP SAY THAT THESE COUNTRIES ARE INCREASINGLY
CONCERNED BY WHAT THEY VIEW OMINOUSLY AS A LACK OF RE-
SOLVE ON THE PART OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO COUNTER
SOVIET CHALLENGES.

19. ARRAYED AGAINST THIS GROUP IS A BODY OF OPINION

THAT BELIEVES THAT THE BEST THING THE UNITED STATES CAN
DO IN AFRICA IS TO OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH

THOSE COUNTRIES WHERE SOVIET INFLUENCE IS STRONG OR EVEN
DOMINANT. DIPLOMATS WHO HOLD THIS VIEW ARGUE AGAINST
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ANY OVERREACTION IN WASHINGTON TO SOVIET ADVANCES THAT
THEY SAY MAY BE VERY EPHEMERAL. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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